against poverty, will the Government be pleased to state the statistics relating to the progress they have made in the matter?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Government have not maintained any statistics in the matter.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Did they promise any progress in that line when that question was answered?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I don't think the Government made any promise.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—The answer to question No. 151 section (b) is 'Government will do what is possible'. I want to know what they have been doing in the interval with reference to this promise?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—So far as I know nothing has been done.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know the reason?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—That can be ascertained only after the economic survey is over.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Why was not that answer given at that time?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—At that time there was no such definite proposal to conduct an economic survey. The appointment is itself one of the actions in pursuance of that promise.

Shallow-waters—Kadakkarai.

17. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—With reference to question No. 176, 17th December 1931, regarding inconveniences to the travelling public on account of shallow waters at Kadakkarai, will the Government be pleased to state the results of their enquiry and what they have done thereon?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The question of dredging was further investigated and in view of the prohibitive cost involved the proposal has been dropped for the present.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know the cost, Sir?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The cost is estimated at Rs. 36,000.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know when the Government hope to find funds for the same, since they have admitted that it is a necessary work?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—Are the Government aware that steam boats and motor boats get stranded at Kadakkarai?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I have submitted a report to the Government in that connection. The channel cannot exactly be described as impassable. It cannot be used dur-

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ing low tides. Considering the expenditure involved the Government wanted to postpone the work.

Concentration of land in the hands of a few.

18. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—With reference to question No. 216, 17th December 1931, regarding concentration of land in the hands of a few, will the Government be pleased to state whether position in the matter is the same now ;

(b) and if it is not, what answers are due to the different issues raised?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) No answer is necessary in view of the answer given above.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is the concentration of the whole land in the State in the hands of a single gentleman deemed by the Government as something undesirable?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—All the lands in the State are not in the possession of a single individual.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is it not progressive concentration?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—But the lands are distributed among many, andsome may not own lands.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is not a progressive concentration going on everywhere? From the statistics don't you find a diminution in the number of ryots every year?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—There is an increase and decrease. Some purchase and some sell.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—What is the general trend?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—It is as before.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—What is the number of ryots three years ago?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The Government do not know.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Have you not got some document of assessment?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—It is not possible to read out the names just now. It can be supplied later on.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Once it is found that a progressive concentration of land is going on in this country, does the Government consider it a positive danger?

President.—If it is a question for information it will be answered.

Economic Regeneration scheme.

19. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—With reference to question No. 283, 18th December 1931, regarding an Economic Regener-

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